

**TREDGOLD'S TEXTBOOK OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY (SUBNORMALITY).** By R. F. Tredgold and K. Soddy. Tenth Edition. (Pp. xii + 530. 60s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1963.

THIS latest edition of Tredgold and Soddy's Textbook of Mental Deficiency in many ways represents a healthy departure from static descriptions of pathological states alone to a more dynamic approach to the understanding of problems of social and psychological adjustment in mentally defective individuals. This owes much to the lessons learned from Child Psychiatry, and indeed the chapters on normal mentality, the subnormal mind, and disorders of relationship formation would be equally relevant in a textbook on that subject. The descriptions of child development and its anomalies are essentially clinical, and might not satisfy the academic psychologist, but they are none the less valuable for the positive therapeutic approach embodied in them.

When discussing disorders of relationship formation, the authors state that "... time still provides the most rational approach to classification that has so far emerged" (p. 174). Thus the severity of defects are assessed in terms of norms of development for the various age groups. Structural diagnoses are reserved for the more orthodox descriptive parts of the book.

The authors condemn the too widespread use of the term "schizophrenia" to describe a wide variety of severe behavioural disturbances in subnormal children (pages 99 and 152), rightly regarding it as both misleading and a hindrance to a better understanding of aetiology. They criticise psychopathological formulations that do not take into account the effects of parental attitudes on ego development in these conditions.

The main clinical syndromes are described with the customary clarity found in earlier editions of the book. The collaboration of six contributors has broadened and enriched the text.

It is the reviewer's opinion that this book will maintain its position in the literature on mental deficiency. In addition to postgraduate students of psychiatry, paediatricians and child psychiatrists will find in it much of relevance to their branches of medicine. J. G. G.

## **A SYNOPSIS OF BLOOD GROUPING THEORY AND SEROLOGICAL TECHNIQUES.**

By A. Derek Farr, F.I.M.L.T., A.I.S.T. (Pp. xvi + 108; figs. 9; tables 23. 21s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1963.

THE author is Chief Technologist of the North-East of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service, Aberdeen, and this book has been written for the laboratory technician coming to the subject for the first time. It more than covers the syllabus in blood group serology required for the intermediate and final examinations of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology.

The book's layout is well planned and clear; the index is adequate and there is a good glossary of terms commonly used in blood group serology. Rightly, in this type of book, few references to original works are listed, but there is a useful bibliography for those who wish to study the subject at greater length.

The first chapter is devoted to the history and significance of the blood groups, and your reviewer feels that more than a page-and-a-half could be made of this in future editions, giving credit to blood transfusion pioneers like Robertson, and less space in another chapter to the possibly unreliable and expensive blood grouping method on "Eldoncards." Apart from these minor criticisms this is an admirable book and can be thoroughly recommended to laboratory technicians and many doctors who have the day-to-day responsibility of blood transfusion.

C. C. K.